A Strange and Wonderful

RELATION

FROM

SHADWEL

OR,

The *DEVIL* Visible.

BEING

A most true and faithful account how the *Devil* in human Shape, on the 3*d*. of this Instant *July*, made his Appearance to one Mrs. *Moon* there, (a person that had formerly lived well, but now reduced to poverty) with a Bag of Money in one hand, and a Knife in the other, tempting her to Murther one of her Children.

As also how she refused, and resisted his Temptation, Imploring the Prayers of her Neighbours, of whom, two plainly saw this evil Spirit, going forth of the House.

LONDON,

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A

Strange and Wonderful Relation from Shadwell,

OR,

The *Devil* visible.

THough the prodigious swarm of Pamphlets, which of late the over-teeming Press hath Spawn'd into the World, (many of them no less false than trivial) may have rendred in a great measure, such Relations both suspected and Contemptible; yet the certainty of the matter that Impregnates this sheet, the nearness of the place where it happened, and the notoriousness of the thing, seems not only to deserve, but challenge and require, that a full and faithful Account thereof should be preferred to the publique; Since the same is done not so much to gratify peoples vain Curiosity, or tickle those Itching Ears which (like the Idle *Athenians* of old) are perpetually Listening after strange Novelties. As to Alarm and awaken all, by so fresh and present an

Example to ſtand upon their Watch, and Guard themſelves (as they value the ſafety and Salvation of their precious Immortal Souls) with the *whole Armor of God*, but eſpecially the *ſhield of Faith*, againſt the Aſſaults of the Tempter.

For though it be moſt true, as the Sacred Oracles of Divine Writ teſtify, that this reſtleſs Enemy of mankinds peace and happineſs, hath ever ſince he beguiled our firſt Parents in Paradize, *gone too and fro as a roaring Lion, ſeeking whom he may devour*. Yet we find by two woful Experience, that in this latter and worſt Age of the World, his malicious and Helliſh Induſtry is encreaſed more than ever; And (as all things move with a Swifter and more violent motion the nearer they approach to their Center) ſo this dreadful Tyrant Prince of the Air, apprehending his Chain to ſhrink, and that he muſt ſhortly be tumbled into, and confined for Eternity in that bottomleſs Pit, prepared for him and his ſeduced Servants; Endeavours with greater diligence and more openly to ſpread his Nets, and Inveagle as many as he can into the ſame Lake of Perdition with himſelf.

For certainly no good Conſiderate Chriſtian, can but with grief of Soul have obſerved, what a plentiful (but moſt deplorable) Harveſt he has lately made amongſt us, by thoſe numbers that in or about this very City, have been drawn by his ſubtle ſuggeſtions, and the mediation of diſpare within few weeks, laſt paſt, to lay violent hands upon themſelves, and cut off the thred of their own Lives, by hanging themſelves, drowning themſelves, breaking their

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own Necks, cutting their own Throats, and the like ſad means wherewith our Laws are daily Alarm'd, Contrary both to the Laws of God, and dictates of Nature, in whoſe Charter ſelf-preſervation has been always accounted the firſt Article.

But this Proemium (though if ſoberly conſidered, not altogether Impertinent) may perhaps ſeem two great a Gate for ſo ſmall a Fabrique, and therefore we haſten to the intended matter, being truely and briefly thus.

In the Pariſh of St. *Paul* Shadwell (lately made ſo by Act of Parliament, being formerly a Hamlet or part of *Stepney*) lives a Woman born there, whoſe maiden name was *Anne Hooper*; ſhe was deſcended of good Parents, who beſides the Precious Legacy of an honeſt Fame left her, when they paid that debt which we all owe to Nature, a handſome Competency of the Goods of Fortune, ſhe having to the value of three hundred Pounds to her Portion, And being left by their deceaſe in ſo Creditable a Condition, wholly at her own diſpoſe, ſhe Spun not on the Thread of her Life very many Years, before ſhe twiſted it in Matrimony, Being Match'd ſome Years ſince to an honeſt Seaman of good repute, named *Moon* whoſe promiſing Induſtry aſſiſted by her before mentioned Fortune, Seem'd to beſpeak their marriage happy, and probably aſſure to the remainder of their Lives a comfortable ſubſiſtence; But as truth it ſelf has told us, *That the Race is not always to the Swift*, So Experience daily convinces that there is a vaſt difference between human likelyhoods and the Miſterious decrees of Fate. For notwithſtanding

ſtanding theſe advantages by ſome unhappy accidents rather than defaults properly chargeable on either of them, their eſtate began ſenſibly to waſt, and in time to be totally conſumed, that they were now reduced to the very Brink of neceſſity, having not ſufficient left to maintain or provide Bread for her ſelf, and ſeveral ſmall Children which ſhe had brought into the World, the thoughts of whoſe pining and half ſtarving Condition, and Conſideration of her Husbands abſence (who is at preſent gone a long voyage to Sea) ſo that ſhe could not for a long time expect any Relief from him, put this poor diſtreſſed Woman of late into ſuch a melancholly grief, that ſeem'd to border on diſpair, ſo that ſhe was ſeldom alone, but ſhe was bewailing her misfortunes with paſſionate Complaints, whilſt her languiſhing Cheeks over-flow'd with a briny ocean of Tears.

Satan (that has ever Tutor'd wicked Polititians to Fiſh in troubled waters) was not wanting here to practiſe that Maxim himſelf. That ſubtle degraded *Seraphin* knows two well, that want is one of the readieſt and moſt open Inlets for his Temptations, and therefore deſigns, whilſt her mind is toſt in this diſmal Tempeſt, to Ship-wrack her Soul.

For on the third of *July* laſt, ſhe being extraordinarily ſtraitned, ſo that ſhe knew not what to do, and being retired (as is uſual with melancholly diſtreſſed and afflicted perſons) up into a Chamber, that with more freedom ſhe might bemoan her Condition, In broad day light this ever buſy Tempter preſents himſelf to her, who, having at her coming into the Room ſhut the door, which ſtill to her apprehen-

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ſion had Continued faſt, was not a little ſurprized to ſee a man (as by his form ſhe at firſt Judged him to be) there intruding on her privacy, and ſtanding Juſt by her, But was much more aſtoniſht, when ſhe beheld in his right hand a naked knife, and in the other a large Purſe filled as it were with money, and was Juſt ready to cry out when this Apparition began to ſpeak to her.

Who ſpoke in ſmooth language, and a low but ſhril Inſinuating voice repreſents, 'That he well knew her 'wants and diſtreſs, and that he came there on pur-'poſe in pity to relieve them, But that if ſhe would 'not hearken to his advice, ſhe ſhould be ten times 'more miſerable than ſhe was at preſent; For her 'Husband was dead, and no ſuccour to be expected 'from him. [mark here the truth of the Goſpel, ſaying, the *Devil* was a Lyar from the beginning.] That ſhe had a moſt Inſupportable Charge of Children, and that ſhe ſhould never be happy till ſhe had leſſen'd their number, that her youngeſt Child which then (poor Babe) happened to be Innocently ſleeping on a Bed in the ſame Room, beſides the preſent miſeries it ſuffered, was born to much greater misfortunes which it muſt undergo, and therefore ſhe ſhould now come and diſpatch it from thoſe afflictions and eaſe her own Charge, by Killing of it, which he would ſecure her ſhould never be known or diſcovered, and that thereupon he would give her all that money in the Purſe (holding it forth) and more from time to time, ſo that ſhe ſhould never want, and upon that proffered her the Knife to Execute what he perſwaded her to.

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The poor Woman in a fright, and Juſt Indignation at this horrid bloody propoſal, and ſome other Symtoms, concluding it could be no other but the *Devil*, which could adviſe her to ſuch a barbarous Impiety, began with a devout fervency to deteſt an Action ſo abominable, and calling on the name of the Lord, run down ſtairs and into the Street, where meeting ſome of her Neighbours at the door, ſhe with an amazing vehemency, intreated their Prayers to God for her Protection.

Immediately after her coming down, two of theſe Neighbours plainly ſaw the likeneſs of a tall man in black Habit come down ſtairs, and ſo into the ſtreet by them, but he did not ſeem to walk as men do, but rather glide along like a ſhadow, and at a ſmall diſtance diſappear'd, but though they ſpoke and pointed at it, yet, neither the woman nor any of the reſt could then ſee it.

Several Divines and other ſober perſons have been ſince with her, who confirmes the truth of this Relation, and for this latter part theſe two other perſons are both ready to atteſt it, for the Satisfaction of any judicious enquirer, the Woman her ſelf remaining ſtill in trouble of Spirit, and deſiring the Prayers of all good Chriſtians to Allmighty God for his Grace, that as by the ſame in this grievous and terrible tryal, ſo at all times hereafter, ſhe may be enabled to withſtand the wiles of the Tempter.

Her abode is near the great Brew-Houſe, in Middle Shadwel.

F I N I S.